

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPACE SCIENCE BOARD

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August 5, 1963

Mr. James E. Webb, Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
Washington, D. C. 20546

Dear Mr. Webb:

You will recall that during the course of the sessions in Iowa last summer a working group of both scientists and engineers considered the subject of space probe sterilization. This study resulted in an appreciation on the part of biologists for some of the engineering considerations and I think a measure of understanding by the engineers for the concerns of biologists.

Since the Summer Study, the Board has continued to consider the question and has concluded that a restatement of its views with regard to space probe sterilization is required. The enclosed paper reports the views of the Space Science Board on this topic and I believe will permit NASA to issue publicly a statement on space probe sterilization which, when implemented, can be supported by the biological community.

The extent of interest in this subject among scientists suggests that our recommendations be made known to them, as discussed with your staff.

Sincerely,

H. H. Hess
Chairman

enc.

cc: Dr. Seitz
Dr. Dryden
Dr. Newell
Dr. Odishaw